

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) An information providing system, comprising:
an information processing apparatus; and
an information supplying apparatus for supplying image data of omnidirectional images to the information processing apparatus over a network,

wherein the information supplying apparatus obtains viewpoint information set by the information processing apparatus; encodes the image data of the omnidirectional images, based on the obtained viewpoint information, such that image data of an image in a second direction has a lower resolution than image data of an image in a first direction corresponding to the viewpoint information, the first direction and the second direction being different from each other; and transmits the encoded image data of the omnidirectional images to the information processing apparatus, and such that image data of an image in a third direction has a lower resolution than image data in the first direction and second direction and the third direction being directly opposite from the first direction, and

wherein the information processing apparatus decodes, out of the received image data of the omnidirectional images, image data corresponding to the viewpoint information, and outputs the decoded image data.

Claim 2 (currently amended) An information providing method for an information providing system in which an information supplying apparatus supplies image data of omnidirectional images to an information processing apparatus over a network, the information providing method comprising:

an information supplying method; and
an information processing method,

wherein the information supplying method includes the steps of obtaining viewpoint information set by the information processing apparatus; encoding the image data of the

omnidirectional images, based on the obtained viewpoint information, such that image data of an image in a second direction has a lower resolution than image data of an image in a first direction corresponding to the viewpoint information, the first direction and the second direction being different from each other; and transmitting the encoded image data of the omnidirectional images to the information processing apparatus, and such that image data of an image in a third direction has a lower resolution than image data in the first direction and second direction and the third direction being directly opposite from the first direction, and

wherein the information processing method includes the steps of decoding, out of the received image data of the omnidirectional images, image data corresponding to the viewpoint information, and outputting the decoded image data.

Claim 3 (currently amended) An information supplying apparatus that supplies image data of omnidirectional images to at least one information processing apparatus over a network, the information supplying apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving viewpoint information from the at least one information processing apparatus;

encoding means for encoding the image data of the omnidirectional images, based on the viewpoint information received by the receiving means, such that image data of images in a second direction has a lower resolution than image data of an image in a first direction corresponding to the viewpoint information, the first direction and the second direction being different from each other, and such that image data of an image in a third direction has a lower resolution than image data in the first direction and second direction and the third direction being directly opposite from the first direction; and

transmitting means for transmitting the image data of the omnidirectional images which is encoded by the encoding means to the at least one information processing apparatus.

Claim 4 (original) An information supplying apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the encoding means encodes the image data in a joint photographic experts group 2000 format.

Claim 5 (original) An information supplying apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the encoding means encodes the image data of the omnidirectional images, so that, of the images

in the second direction, an image in a direction farther from the first direction has an even lower resolution.

Claim 6 (original) An information supplying apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the resolution is set by the number of pixels or the number of colors.

Claim 7 (original) An information supplying apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising storing means for storing the image data of the omnidirectional images which is encoded by the encoding means.

Claim 8 (original) An information supplying apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising combining means for combining the image data of the omnidirectional images which is encoded by the encoding means into one file of image data, wherein the storing means stores the one file of image data combined by the combining means.

Claim 9 (original) An information supplying apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising converting means for converting, based on the viewpoint information, the resolution of the image data of the images in the second direction, the image data being stored by the storing means, into a lower resolution, wherein the transmitting means transmits the image data of the omnidirectional images which is converted by the converting means.

Claim 10 (previously presented) An information supplying apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising selecting means for selecting, based on the viewpoint information received by the receiving means from the information processing apparatuses, a highest resolution for the image data in the second direction, the image data being transmitted to the information processing apparatuses, wherein the transmitting means transmits image data of the omnidirectional images having a resolution lower than or equal to the resolution selected by the selecting means.

Claim 11 (currently amended) An information supplying method for an information supplying apparatus that supplies image data of omnidirectional images to an information processing apparatus over a network, the information supplying method comprising:

a receiving step of receiving viewpoint information from the information processing apparatus;

an encoding step of encoding the image data of the omnidirectional images, based on the viewpoint information received in the receiving step, such that image data of an image in a second direction has a lower resolution than image data of an image in a first direction corresponding to the viewpoint information, the first direction and the second direction being different from each other and such that image data of an image in a third direction has a lower resolution than image data in the first direction and second direction and the third direction being directly opposite from the first direction; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the image data of the omnidirectional images which is encoded in the encoding step to the information processing apparatus.

Claim 12 (currently amended) A computer-readable medium in which a program for an information supplying apparatus that supplies image data of omnidirectional images to an information processing apparatus over a network is recorded, the program being readable by a computer, the program comprising:

a receiving step of receiving viewpoint information from the information processing apparatus;

an encoding step of encoding the image data of the omnidirectional images, based on the viewpoint information received in the receiving step, such that image data of an image in a second direction has a lower resolution than image data of an image in a first direction corresponding to the viewpoint information, the first direction and the second direction being different from each other and such that image data of an image in a third direction has a lower resolution than image data in the first direction and second direction and the third direction being directly opposite from the first direction; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the image data of the omnidirectional images which is encoded in the encoding step to the information processing apparatus.

Claim 13 (currently amended) A program on a computer-readable medium executed by a computer for controlling an information supplying apparatus that supplies image

data of omnidirectional images to an information processing apparatus over a network, the program comprising:

a receiving step of receiving viewpoint information from the information processing apparatus;

an encoding step of encoding the image data of the omnidirectional images, based on the viewpoint information received in the receiving step, such that image data of an image in a second direction has a lower resolution than image data of an image in a first direction corresponding to the viewpoint information, the first direction and the second direction being different from each other and such that image data of an image in a third direction has a lower resolution than image data in the first direction and second direction and the third direction being directly opposite from the first direction; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the image data of the omnidirectional images which is encoded in the encoding step to the information processing apparatus.

Claim 14 (previously presented) The information providing system according to Claim 1, wherein the lower resolution is one half of the resolution of the image data of an image in a first direction.

Claim 15 (previously presented) The information providing method according to Claim 2, wherein the lower resolution is one half of the resolution of the image data of an image in a first direction.

Claim 16 (previously presented) The information supplying apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the lower resolution is one half of the resolution of the image data of an image in a first direction.

Claim 17 (previously presented) The information supplying method according to Claim 11, wherein the lower resolution is one half of the resolution of the image data of an image in a first direction.

Claim 18 (previously presented) The computer readable medium according to Claim 12, wherein the lower resolution is one half of the resolution of the image data of an image in a first direction.

Claim 19 (previously presented) The program on a computer readable medium according to Claim 13, wherein the lower resolution is one half of the resolution of the image data of an image in a first direction.